



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 12, 2003

To the Members of the Northwest Straits Commission's
Derelict Fishing Gear Team:

Congratulations to the members of the Northwest Straits Commission's Derelict Fishing Gear Team on receiving the Coastal America 2003 Partnership Award. The award recognizes your outstanding partnerships that make a significant contribution toward the restoration and protection of our Nation's coastal environment.

The partnership you forged has brought together Federal, State, tribal, local agencies, and organizations to develop a comprehensive plan to begin a massive undertaking to remove derelict fishing gear from Puget Sound. Through your efforts, the habitats in Northern Puget Sound are safer for people, marine mammals, fish, and sea birds. My Administration strongly supports efforts to bring together collective resources to meet common goals and better our environment.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success.